

## NEW LOOK FOR TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

A group of volunteers and Town officials have been meeting to discuss and design an enhanced Town Hall parking area. The dirt site has been graded and soon the Town will pave and lay out curbing and parking spots, making 30 regular and two handicapped spaces available.

The creation of the new parking lot presents a unique opportunity to enhance and beautify the "town center" by Sheffield's Town Hall. The additional landscaping will connect the gardens behind the Sheffield Historical Society and the Stone Store to create a unified look in front of Town Hall.

The plan is reproduced on page 3. It calls for a walkway that will connect the Historical Society grounds, the Stone Store and Town Hall with the center of town. Several grass areas adorned with 12- to 18-foot elms, oaks and maples and ornamental shrubs such as viburnum, hydrangea and spirea will set off the area. Two benches, a

### WHAT ABOUT THE WIRES?

As reported in the last issue of the *Sheffield Times*, the funds allocated for Phase 2 of the Sheffield Green project, which come from the federal government via the Mass Highway Dept., were released several years after the project was designed. During the delay, construction costs of course went up, yet Mass Highway is not increasing its funding. So there are no longer enough allocated funds to bury the lines.

Additional funding must be found locally or at the state level for this key part of the renovation. If you are interested in helping to find a solution or concerned about losing the chance to bury the lines while the Green is torn up, contact the Board of Selectmen at 229-2335.

bike rack big enough for 13 bikes, trash receptacles and a portable toilet facility will be installed.

Suggestions, constructive criticism and inquiries can be directed to

any members of the committee: Ron Bassett, Tammy Blackwell, Jim Collingwood, Tony Gulotta, Julie Hannum, Tom Ingersoll, Catherine Miller, Bob Weitz and Rene Wood.

Town funding covers only paving and curbing, so the volunteer committee is raising money for the other aspects of the project, whose costs are estimated to be \$25,000. To that end, people are invited to sponsor the landscaping of the new site.

To fund the 750-foot walkway, individuals are being asked to buy a paving stone engraved with whatever name they wish—their own, that of a friend or a name in memory. The architectural blocks in this "Walk of Names" will resemble antique, worn stone. Small stones (6 $\frac{7}{8}$  x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.) will cost \$100 and large ones (8 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 13 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.) \$200.

*Continued on page 3*

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WEITZ OFFERED ANOTHER JOB

According to an article on April 19 in the Springfield Republican, Bob Weitz, Sheffield's Town Administrator since 1991, has accepted a job in the town of Wilbraham, a town of 14,000 outside of Springfield.

The acceptance hinges on final contract negotiations, said the report. Wilbraham Selectmen Chairman David Barry was quoted as saying he hoped to introduce Weitz at Wilbraham's May 14 town meeting.

As this issue was going to press, Weitz

hadn't given notice to Sheffield's Board of Selectmen.

Before coming to Sheffield, Weitz held a variety of posts in Massachusetts town government in the Worcester area. He served on the Board of Selectmen in West Brookfield, where he was also town moderator, and he worked as a town planner in Northborough and Millbury. Weitz graduated from the University of Massachusetts and has a law degree from Western New England College.

## TOWN MEETING MAY 7, ELECTIONS MAY 14

Voters will be asked to approve Sheffield's town budget and Sheffield's portion of the school budget at Town Meeting May 7. The meeting, at 7pm at Mt. Everett Regional High School, is open to all but only registered voters can vote.

In the town elections May 14, five positions—Selectman, Library Trustee, Moderator, and two openings on the Planning Board—will be filled in uncontested elections. If voting at Town Meeting is such that a levy override is required, that measure will be decided on May 14 as well.

### In This Issue

#### Community

Master Plan update	3
Orville Dewey	4
Parades, poetry contest	7
School district news	8
Berkshire School news	9
Church news	10

#### Library

Library news, Recommended Reading	11
Library volunteers	12
<b>Village Green</b>	
Senior Center/Council on Aging	13
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes	14
Planning Board, Police Dept.	16

Town Clerk, Fire log	18
<b>Organizations &amp; Businesses</b>	
Farmers' Market opens	19
Historical Society News	20
Bartholomew's Cobble Events	20
<b>Real Estate Transfers</b>	22
<b>Calendar Page</b>	23



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**July/August issue  
deadline: July 15**

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Community Newsletter for  
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA

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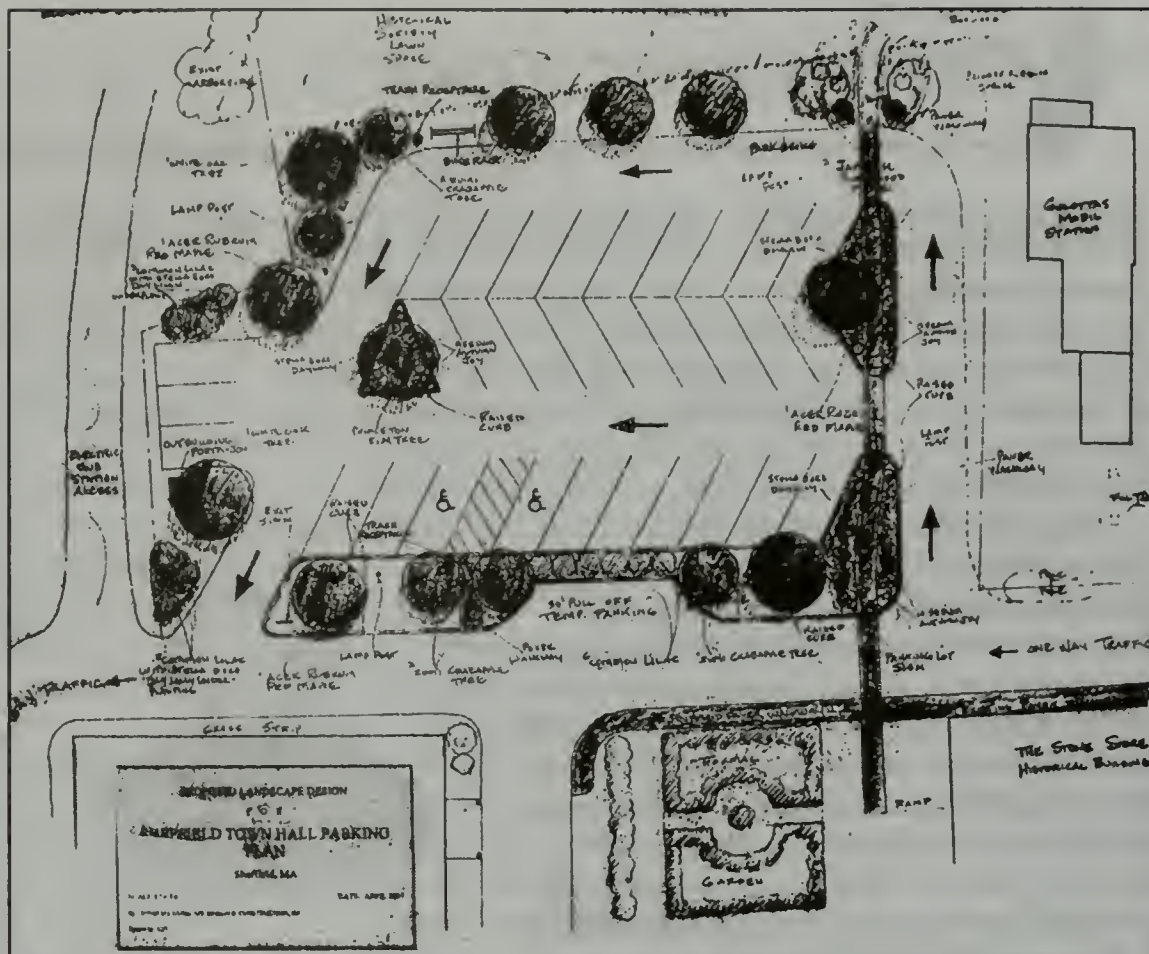
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who contributes to help keep *The Sheffield Times* going.  
individual thank yous will resume in the next issue..



People can also sponsor trees (for \$100 to \$500, depending on the size and the species). Sponsorship of the bicycle rack will be \$1,000 and trash cans \$750 each. There's only one of the benches still unsponsored (\$500). All donors and sponsors will be recognized on a plaque that will be installed in the parking area.

If you are interested in helping create the new Town Center, you can view the plan and find donation forms at Town Hall, Gulotta's, Silk's, Gretta's Market & Deli, the Senior Center, the Library and the Ashley Falls Post Office. You can also get a form from members of the committee, or mail a contribution to Town of Sheffield Parking Area Fund, attention of the Town Treasurer, PO Box 325, Sheffield, MA 01257. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

—Catherine Miller



### Plan for the new parking lot.

The new parking lot north of Town Hall (lower left) will be surrounded with plantings.

Gulotta's service station is to the upper right. The "Walk of Names" connects the Stone Store and its garden (lower right) and the

Historical Society grounds (at top). A portable toilet would be installed on the west side, near the railroad tracks.

## MASTER PLAN REPORT RECOMMENDS CREATION OF A HOUSING COMMISSION; OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN ON TRACK

The Housing Subcommittee of the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee has recommended to the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board that a new permanent body, the Housing Action Commission, be created. The advice came at a joint meeting of the Advisory Committee with members of the two Boards on March 26.

The Committee affirmed that Sheffield's most pressing housing need is affordable housing for senior citizens and young adults, including those with families, and that action should not be delayed. It concluded that affordable workforce housing should be a short-term objective of the Town's efforts.

Their report states that "many people, including professionals that the town needs to function well, such as teachers and police, cannot afford market rate homes in Sheffield."

The subcommittee recommended that the new commission take on four tasks:

- Review existing by-laws and recommend changes that could promote affordable housing.

- Identify areas that would be appropriate for new housing.

- Take a regional approach. Such an approach, they explain, would permit Sheffield to access resources and funding not necessarily available to individual small towns—such as Construct, Inc., the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Habitat for Humanity.

- Identify and explore housing and community models that will meet Sheffield's current and future needs.

The subcommittee recommended that the Commission consist of five to seven volunteer members and be diverse in composition, including a realtor, a land use planner, a member of the Conservation Commission and a civil engineer.

Members of the Housing Subcommittee include Peter Cherneff, Glenn DeVoti, Frank Garretson, Anna James, John James, Maggie Martin, Paul O'Brien, Kathy Orlando, Rev. Annie Ryder, Don Ward and Marilyn Wightman.

The two Boards also heard the report of the Open Space and Recreation

Subcommittee. John Wightman, representing the subcommittee, reminded the Selectmen and Planning Board of several important issues facing Sheffield: the squeeze on small farmers, the pressure of unregulated development, the protection of abundant but fragile clean water resources, the preservation of mountainsides and ridge lines, the defense of forests and wildlife and the protection of hunting and fishing resources.

The state of Massachusetts has a prescribed process for towns to develop five-year Open Space and Recreation Plans. The subcommittee is in the process of crafting a draft of such a plan to be submitted to the state and expects to have a draft ready in a few months.

The draft will be reviewed by town boards and committees and various non-profit conservation and hunting groups, and public forums will solicit town-wide comment. Once those comments have been taken into account, a revised plan will be submitted to the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen for final

Continued on page 6



### ORVILLE DEWEY: SHEFFIELD'S LINK TO THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

Since its founding, Sheffield has always been just a little bit off the map, and that's the way Sheffield residents like it. Not for Sheffield the teeming throngs of Tanglewood or the seething streets of Stockbridge in July. Sheffield doesn't boast a Hawthorne, a Melville or a Wharton. What it does have is the Reverend Dr. Orville Dewey.

People familiar with Sheffield know Dewey Memorial Hall, the landmark on the Sheffield Green that bears his name. Orville Dewey "received the great and the near-great of the nineteenth century literary and social world. William Cullen Bryant, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Harriet Martineau, Catherine Sedgwick, Fanny Kemble, and the beautiful Mrs. Jameson—all were entertained and spiritually refreshed by visits to 'St. David's,'" writes Lillian E. Preiss in *Sheffield: Frontier Town*.

"St. David's" was the name given by Dewey to his house at 90 South Main St., which dates from 1762 and which is currently the site of Holmes Fine Furniture and Antiques. Dewey called it St. David's because he believed the name Dewey to be of Welsh origin and St. David is the patron saint of Wales.

Dewey was born in Sheffield in 1794, and died there in 1882. His father, a successful Sheffield farmer, was anxious to give his son every advantage and sent him to Williams College at the age of 17. Measles impaired his sight in his junior year, but he persisted and graduated with first honors in 1814. He taught briefly in Sheffield and worked in a bookstore in New York before entering theological seminary at Andover, graduating in 1819. Dewey married Louisa Farnham. The couple had five children.

Dewey struggled with theological questions, eventually turning to Unitarianism, an unpopular move with some of his friends. He preached in Boston, New Bedford and New York, his work interrupted from time to time by ill health, which brought him back to Sheffield first in 1848, and later, for good in 1861.

Dewey was an author in his own right. His highly acclaimed Lowell Institute lectures were published under the title *The Problems of Human Life and Destiny*. Here are some of his literary connections.

#### Dewey and the Sedgwicks

The Sedgwicks were a well-known family in Sheffield in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Theodore Sedgwick, an attorney, owned a house at 126 Main St., now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ledlie. Sedgwick was involved in the landmark case of the slave Elizabeth Freeman (Mumbet) against Colonel Ashley of Sheffield, in which Mumbet was given her

freedom, a case that led to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts. Mumbet then went to work for the Sedgwick family and is buried in the Sedgwick family plot in Stockbridge.

Sedgwick, who later moved to Stockbridge, went on to become Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and judge of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. His daughter, Catharine Sedgwick (1787-1867), who never married, was one of the most famous and popular authors of her time, although her novels are almost unreadable today. She was 33 when her first novel, *A New England Tale*, was published. Well-connected and gregarious, she was part of a lively social circle in and around Stockbridge and Lenox. A Sedgwick descendant, John Sedgwick, writes in *In My Blood*: "Back in the 1830s, it was to see Catharine that the British writer Harriet Martineau came to the Berkshires, putting the region on

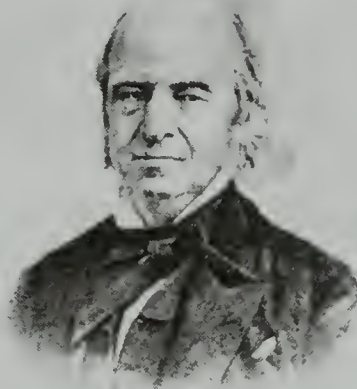
the map for Englishmen, and therefore for Americans too.... Catharine's literary stature also made the area enticing to other writers like Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and, as writers and artists can do, their cultural gloss transformed what had always been a starkly forbidding outback into a tony vacation spot. Indeed, the Berkshires began to be thought of as the English Lake District."

A lively correspondence exists between Catharine Sedgwick and Orville Dewey. In a letter of May 13, 1854, Catharine Sedgwick writes: "The event to me, of the past week was a very charming visit to Sheffield. Mr. Dewey's domestic life is beautiful.... The old homestead is neatly kept, the old trees grow to venerableness, and the simple ménage is ordered with the utmost style and ability. I never saw a less ostentatious, or a more cordial and effective hospitality." Catharine regarded him, as she says in her own *Life and Letters* as "her dear friend." Dewey named one of his daughters Catharine Sedgwick.

Although Catharine never married, she had numerous suitors, including the poet William Cullen Bryant, whom she had met first in 1816. It was a useful association. John Sedgwick writes: "She was assiduously promoted by the poet William Cullen Bryant, whom Robert and Harry (Sedgwick's brothers) had known at Williams and who remained in their New York circle when he became editor of Hamilton's old paper, the *New York Evening Post*." Catharine Sedgwick dedicated her second novel, *Redwood*, published in 1824, to Bryant.

#### Dewey and William Cullen Bryant

Bryant (1794-1878) was born in Cummington, MA, (the house still exists and is open to the public) and lived in Great Barrington from 1816 to 1825, where he practiced law. Bryant was considered a child prodigy—he composed and published



Orville Dewey



his wildly popular poem "Thanatopsis" at the age of 17. Like Dewey, he attended Williams College. He died in 1878.

Dewey corresponded with Bryant throughout most of their lives, especially after Bryant left the Berkshires for New York to become the influential editor of the New York Evening Post (Manhattan's Bryant Park is named after him). An intriguing letter to Bryant written in 1850 refers to an upcoming visit by Bryant and a meeting of "The Club" in Sheffield, but no further mention appears in Dewey's correspondence.

Both Dewey and Bryant were early ecologists and together planted Seven Pines, on Route 7 near the police station, where several towering pines still stand. Dewey also established the Elm Tree Association in 1852, taking the name from the Great Elm of Sheffield, which used to stand near Route 7 and Silver St. Bryant and friends made Dewey a gift of \$2,262 on his 80th birthday, something Dewey found most gratifying.

### Dewey and Emerson

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was a poet, essayist and leader of the Transcendentalist movement—and Orville Dewey's cousin. From 1823 to 1833 Dewey was pastor of the Unitarian Church in New Bedford, from which Emerson began a "preaching relationship," according to critic John McAleer. Emerson was "preaching there in the Unitarian church in place of his cousin Orville Dewey. Between November 1, 1833 and April, 1834, Emerson spent almost three months in the old whaling town of New Bedford," says Robert D. Richardson, in Emerson: The Mind on Fire.

It was Emerson who took Dewey to hear the fiery preacher Father Edward Taylor of Boston, "the first time I ever heard him preach," recalls Dewey in his Letters. Noted critic F.O. Matthiessen, who was one of the first to give the name "American Renaissance" to the group of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century American authors, writes that Father Taylor, whom Emerson much admired, may have been the stimulus for Melville's character, Father Mapple, who appears in Moby-Dick. Before Melville's novel even gets to the sea, Ishmael finds himself in church in New Bedford, listening to Father Mapple, a former harpooner and sailor, who, after climbing

a ship's rope ladder to his pulpit, delivers a stirring sermon concerning Jonah and the whale.

### Dewey and Melville

The link between Orville Dewey and Herman Melville (1819-1891) is more slender. Herman Melville married Elizabeth Shaw, daughter of a noted jurist, Lemuel Shaw. The Melvilles lived in New York until 1850, when they purchased Arrowhead, a farmhouse in Pittsfield—today a museum. Here, Melville wrote Moby-Dick, dedicating it to Hawthorne.

Melville may not have visited Dewey at his Sheffield home, but their paths crossed many times. Melville, like Dewey, was a Unitarian. Dewey headed the church in Boston that was attended by Lizzie Melville's family, the Shaws, and he officiated at the funeral of Lizzie's father. Lizzie Melville later presented the Berkshire Bar Association with a bust of her father, which was placed in the Lenox courthouse. While the Melvilles were living in the Berkshires and Orville Dewey was preaching at New South Church in Boston (1857-1861), Dewey came out from Boston to baptize three of the four Melville children.

Just before the Melvilles left the Berkshires in 1863, they took a drive around southern Berkshire County, stopping in Great Barrington for lunch and then driving to Mount Everett. They went on to Bash Bish Falls, then into New York and over to Cummington, Massachusetts where William Cullen Bryant had been born. It is interesting to speculate that en route from Great Barrington to Mount Everett, the Melvilles might have stopped in to see their old Sheffield acquaintance.

### Dewey and his Sheffield home

Dewey loved Sheffield. After he retired here, he wrote to Catharine Sedgwick, in a February 1862 letter:

*This house of ours is very pleasant,—you would think so if you were in it,—all doors open, as in summer, a summer temperature from the furnace, day and night, moderate wood-fires in the parlor and library, cheering to the eye, and making of the chimneys excellent ventilators, and the air pure; and this summer house seated down amidst surrounding cold, and boundless fields of snow,—it seems a miracle of comfort. And then, this surrounding splendor and beauty,—the valley, and the hills and mountains around,—the soft-falling snow, the starry crystals descending through the still air,—the lights and shadows of morning and evening,—this wondrous meteorology of winter—but you know all about it. Really, I think some days that winter is more beautiful than summer.*

Dewey founded the Sheffield Friendly Union in 1871 (see Jim Miller's earlier article on this subject for the Sheffield Times). It was dedicated to the endearing goals of "increasing good and kindly feelings and promoting intelligence and cheerfulness." His daughter Mary wrote that he chose the name and always lectured or read a play of Shakespeare two or three times a year. He died in 1882, and the current hall was erected in 1887 by contributions from friends to the tune of \$10,000.

This remarkable man, whose links to the foremost American authors have been largely unexamined, is buried in Center Cemetery on Berkshire School Rd., Sheffield. —Dr. Gillian Hettinger

### TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ORVILLE DEWEY

An exhibition this summer at Arrowhead, Melville's home in Pittsfield, will focus on the writers and artists of the Berkshires who figured in the American renaissance. Mounted by Dr. Carole Owens, museum scholar at Arrowhead, the exhibit will run from Memorial Day through autumn. For more information, call 413-442-1793.

You can also find out more in these books:

Mary Dewey, Autobiography and Letters of Orville Dewey, D.D.  
Timothy Kinslea, The Sedgwicks in Love  
F.O. Matthiessen, American Renaissance  
John McAleer, Ralph Waldo Emerson: Days of Encounter  
James Miller, Early Life in Sheffield  
Stuart Murray, A Time of War  
Lillian E. Preiss, Sheffield: Frontier Town  
Robert R. Richardson, Jr., Emerson: The Mind on Fire  
Catharine Sedgwick, The Life and Letters of Catharine Sedgwick



## Master Plan, from page 3

approval before it is forwarded to the state.

With state approval, the town is eligible to apply for funding to help implement its recommendations. The plan also allows the town to apply for other types of funding not related to open space and recreation.

Subcommittee members include Tammy Blackwell, Bill Connell, Anna James, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Larkin, Allison Lasso, Twiggs Myers, Kathy Orlando, Jenny Russell and John Wightman.

## A welcome reception

Members of the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board received both reports with enthusiasm and great appreciation, particularly for the positive, voluntary spirit that made them possible. Select-woman Julie Hannum commented, "It is especially exciting and offers tremendous satisfaction for those who have been involved since the beginning of the Master Plan strategic-planning work sessions to

note that our finalized Master Plan is alive and well, with several action items already completed and others being actively in process." The Master Plan and Summary of Recommendations are referenced frequently as primary resources for the Implementation Advisory Committee and its two subcommittees. (Copies of the document are available at Town Hall.)

Rene Wood, chair of the Planning Board, congratulated members of the Advisory Committee and its two subcommittees on their accomplishments and commented favorably on how far the Master Plan implementation process had come since the Advisory Committee was formed about a year ago. She noted, "The town is lucky indeed to have such involved and dedicated volunteers."

—John Wightman

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## PRIZE-WINNING PLAY AT DEWEY HALL

Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *WiT* will be presented as a dramatic reading at Dewey Hall at 7pm on Thurs., June 7. It is the story of Vivian Bearing, a teacher of 17<sup>th</sup> century poetry who makes a heroic journey after her diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Starring members of Main Street Stage, *WiT* is about a person with a lot of skills who must become open to learning new things. Movie goers may remember the 2001 film of the same name, directed by Mike Nichols and starring Emma Thompson.

Director Bruce MacDonald and cast members Beth Hahn, Stephanie Hedges, Mark Hohlstein, Keane Santinelli, Carrie Saldo, Spencer Trovo and Lynn Wood will bring this evening to Sheffield courtesy of Christ Church Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Church.

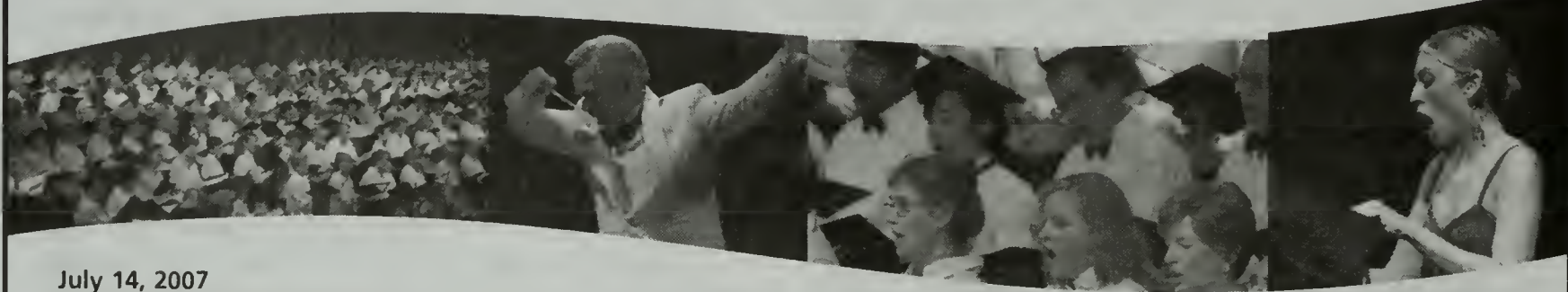
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Donald McCullough – *Psalm 150*

July 28, 2007

Conductor: Grant Gershon  
An evening of Te Deums

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Beethoven – *Elegischer Gesang* and  
*Choral Fantasy*, Op. 80

August 11, 2007

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Mozart – *Mass in C Minor*, K. 427  
Mendelssohn – *Psalm 42*, Op. 42



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# ASHLEY FALLS MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CELEBRATION

Ashley Falls will celebrate Memorial Day with its traditional parade on Mon., May 28, starting at 8am at the village green and marching to the cemetery on Clayton Rd., where the ceremony will take place.

Sponsored by the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society, this community event includes the participation of the Sheffield Fire Dept., Selectmen, Sheffield Whinnies, local Scout troops, and other groups. Bagpiper Eric Goodchild will lead the march, and his cousin William Conklin will play taps. The ceremony includes readings and music, with John-Arthur and Trudy Miller the featured singers.

All members of the military, past and present, are encouraged to be a part of the parade (uniforms not required). A vehicle can be made available for veterans unable to march.

Youngsters are encouraged to decorate their bikes and ride them in the parade. Owners of vintage cars are also invited to participate.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the parade will return to the grounds of the Trinity United Methodist Church parish hall, where refreshments will be served.

In the event of rain, the parade itself will be canceled and the ceremony will take place in the Methodist Church.

Those who would like to volunteer, march, participate in the ceremony or contribute refreshments are asked to call Kathie Ness at 229-3368 or Pam Bloodworth at 229-3530.

# POETRY CONTEST TO HONOR HOUSATONIC RIVER

Poets—modern, traditional, humorous, young or secret—are invited to join with the Sheffield Land Trust and the Housatonic Valley Art League in celebrating the Housatonic River. Poets are asked to help fill a void in poetic views of the Housatonic River from Sheffield. Through the years poems have been written about the Housatonic from the vantage point of other towns. It's time to add some works with the Sheffield point of view.

The occasion for the contest is the dedication of two stone

benches by the river that will commemorate Housatonic River Summer 2004. The benches, sponsored by the Land Trust and the Art League, will be placed at the Covered Bridge off Route 7 and by the Appalachian Trail off Kellogg Rd. The dedication will take place during Sheffield in Celebration Day, the weekend of Sept. 8-9. Awards will be presented, including prizes donated by the Bookloft in Great Barrington and the Old Mill Restaurant in South Egremont, and selected poems will be read. An art show on the same theme is also planned.

Poets interested in submitting work on the theme "view of the Housatonic from Sheffield" should do so by Aug. 3. Maximum length: 24 lines. Work must be original and unpublished at time of submission. Mail to: P.O. Box 934, Sheffield, MA, 01257 or e-mail: [elsbap001@aol.com](mailto:elsbap001@aol.com).

For further information call Pat Elsbach at 229-7758 or M. Mischat 637-1900.

## SHEFFIELD PARADE

The Sheffield Memorial Day parade will start at 11am at the Police Station at the corner of Route 7 and Berkshire School Rd. Ceremonies will be held at the war memorials on the Village Green and at Barnard Park, at the corner of Route 7 and Miller Ave.

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### SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

#### Oliver! to be presented

The Performing Arts Department will present its fourth and final major production of the school year, "Oliver!," May 18-20 at the Consolati Performing Arts Center at Mount Everett Regional School. The Friday and Saturday shows are at 7pm, the Sunday show at 2pm. The musical is based on Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist and tells the story of the orphan Oliver's travails in the workhouse and as one of Fagin's gang of boy thieves. Songs include "Food Glorious Food" and "As Long As He Needs Me."

The show is directed by Robert Law and Charles Coughlin, with Tina Pagliasotti as music director and Kristine Waterman as choreographer. Hilda Banks Shapiro is the rehearsal/performance pianist, and David Turnbough, Samantha Riiska and Mel Barth are the student assistant directors. Lighting and set design are by Charles Coughlin and the costume mistress is Julie Chamberlain.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for students and seniors. They can be reserved by calling the Box Office at 229-8252.

#### KiDmocracy follow up

Twelve days after leaving the U.S., three of the visiting Egyptian students from the KiDmocracy 2007 Tour (Karim, Hagar and Bessam) were interviewed on Egypt's prime time television show "10 O'Clock," with a viewership of some 12 million

households. The students were asked about their time with host families in the Berkshires, about their experience at Mt. Everett and whether they learned anything about democracy.

"The experience has changed our lives," said one. Said another: "The teachers at Mt. Everett were really great, especially Mr. Mike and Mr. John"—referring to Mike Farmer and John Hammill of the Middle School Social Studies Dept., where a large portion of the program's curriculum was taught.

"The airing of this show is a wonderful indication that the authorities in Egypt are supportive of our program," said Farmer.

Said Glenn DeVoti, principal at Mt. Everett, "What wows me is that we made this program happen in just over four months from idea to execution. It shows what can be accomplished when the students, staff, parents, school board and administration as well as members of the community work towards a common purpose."

"If you want to know how I spent spring vacation week," Farmer said, "I spent it working on securing the funding for KiDmocracy 2008!"

You can find pictures from KiDmocracy 2007 at the website [www.KiDmocracy.org](http://www.KiDmocracy.org). The site also features student blogs. A translated version of the "10 O'Clock" program will be uploaded to the site when it is received from Cairo.



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### Berkshire School students come from 25 states and 20 countries, but they call Sheffield home.



Every April, Berkshire School students celebrate Gracious Living Day, performing various acts of community service throughout Berkshire County. This spring, our Sheffield teams washed fire trucks, cleaned kennels at Bow Meow Regency, cleared invasive plants for the Nature Conservancy, visited with seniors at Dewey Hall, mended fences at the Historical Society, and did yard work at Bushnell Sage Library. Our students are grateful for every opportunity to repay their adopted hometown for all the services it provides.

Thank you, Sheffield!

**Berkshire School**  
Sheffield, Massachusetts  
[www.berkshireschool.org](http://www.berkshireschool.org)



# BERKSHIRE SCHOOL WELCOMES AFGHAN STUDENT

Five years after a jetliner carrying 1985 Berkshire School alumnus Peter Goodrich crashed into the World Trade Center, his parents have helped pay for the education of an Afghan boy who is now a junior at Berkshire School.

Mattiullah Amin, 17, is an Afghan citizen who lived in Pakistan with his mother, four sisters and three brothers before coming to the U.S. for school. Mati came to Berkshire as part of the Goodrich family's reaching out after the death of their son. Don Goodrich, a 1961 Berkshire graduate, and his wife, Sally, embraced the differences in our countries' cultures and through the Peter M. Goodrich Foundation built schools for girls in Afghanistan. The foundation also is paying part of Mati's tuition, also funded in part by a donation from the Class of 2006.

A member of the Phuston tribe, Mati was born in Pakistan, where his father's family lives. His mother's family is still in Afghanistan. Mati's family moved to Pakistan around 1980, before he was born, right after the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. They lived in a refugee camp that was funded through American aid. The family now lives in Peshawar in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, where his siblings, all younger, attend school. His mother takes care of them while his father works in Afghanistan to rebuild the country.

Mati says that there is little education in Afghanistan because of the war. He also says that the education is "much better in America" and that he could not enter schools in Pakistan because he is an Afghan. Despite the poor educational opportunities, Mati has learned to speak four languages and to

understand seven. He says the Punjabi language is the hardest.

Mati says that it was not hard to adapt to American culture. He says that the food is good and that he wants to try skiing. His roommate, Josh Brande, a senior from Alta Loma, CA, is also helping him adapt. Before coming, Mati thought that Americans would treat Afghans differently and he was scared. The part of the American culture that he says he most enjoys are the way people interact and are close with each other.

Mati also likes American food, studies, vacation and sports. He especially enjoys football. And he enjoys the interaction between girls and boys.

Mati's plan is to stay in the U.S. and study politics in college. He hopes to spend the summer with Professor David Edwards from Williams College and learn from him. Dr. Edwards came to Berkshire last year to show his documentary "Kabul Transit."

Mati's feelings about Sheffield are positive. "I like Sheffield. It is green and that is the color of peace, so it's very peaceful." Much to Mati's chagrin, Berkshire's spring sports do not include cricket. He went to Florida with the baseball team during spring break, where he learned to play the sport.

Mati has also entered himself into politics by running for all-school president in 2007. "I want to do something for the school and the students here. It has been a dream of mine to be a true politician and serve humanity," says Mati, one of seven candidates for the position. (Mati was in the runoffs but did not win.)

—Nicole Bouteiller '07 and Nate Cannon '07

Nicole, from Great Barrington, and Nate, from Canaan, CT, are reporters for the Green & Gray, Berkshire School's student newspaper.

## Sheffield Historical Society



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# CHURCH NEWS

## ECUMENICAL MEETINGS

### Knitting group

Are you a knitter or have you wanted to learn? Knitting Together is a new, ecumenical ministry being formed in Sheffield to reach out with love and caring to those in need of solace, strength or a special blessing.

The group will gather to work together on "prayer shawls," which will become tangible gifts of comfort to those in need. As the shawls are knitted, they may be passed from hand to hand, with each person adding prayers, energy and good wishes. Thus, many blessings are knitted into every shawl. And it doesn't have to be a shawl. Because this is a new ministry, every group member will have a voice in deciding both what to knit (or crochet, weave, or sew) and which organization or individuals will receive the finished creations. Lessons in knitting will be given to those who wish to learn. No special skills are required.

Knitting Together will meet twice a month: one Wednesday at 3:30pm and one Saturday at 11:00am. Meetings will take place in the Parish Hall at Christ Church Episcopal, 180 Main St. The next meeting will be Sat., May 19.

For more information, call Judy Magenis at 229-7957 or Jill Shallcross at 229-2761. We hope very much that you will join us.

### Community service of remembrance

A service of remembrance honoring the lives of those who have died in Ashley Falls and Sheffield (and others as they are made known to us) will be held on Sun., May 20, at 2pm at the Bushnell-Sage Library.

This second annual event includes the reading of the names of those who have died in the past year. Interfaith clergy and representatives from the area will share a message, prayer, musical offering or scripture from their religious traditions, and there will be time for family members to share about the life of their loved one. We will also remember those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Pianist Beth Bartholomew and singers Trudy and John-Arthur Miller will lead the musical offerings. We will dedicate a flowering shrub to grace the library grounds and refreshments will follow.

If you would like to have your loved one's named included in the service or wish to be part of the service, call the Rev. Annie Ryder at 229-8811.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### ASHLEY FALLS

#### Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational)

355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442.

Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

#### Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)

1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

### GREAT BARRINGTON

#### Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)

North Street (413) 528-4197

Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

#### Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road (413) 528-6378

Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study.

Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

#### Trinity Lutheran

198 Main Street

(413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9am Sunday Worship. Rev. Steve Edmiston

#### Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street (413) 528-4850;

home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

### SHEFFIELD

#### Christ Church (Episcopal)

180 Main Street (413) 229-8811

Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder.

#### Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Route 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

#### Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am

Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

#### Old Parish (Congregational)

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Interim Pastor: Frances Ruthven; Sunday School, 10am

#### Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

#### Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main Street, (413) 528-2911. [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org). 10:45am Sunday Morning Worship. 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wednesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Keith Becker

### Food program

Volunteers make the Sheffield Food Program, and in February we lost two valuable men, Steve Kimpel and Harry Green. Both were drivers and supporters of the program, driving each month to pick up the fresh produce and breads donated by the stores. We miss them both.

On a happier note, the Kiwanis/SADD competition (won by Kiwanis) brought in almost 2,000 items for our shelves. Undermountain Elementary, organized by Pat Hardisty, has been collecting and delivering monthly, and just recently

the Mill River Girl Scouts brought food, money, and boxes of cookies.

As part of its annual Gracious Living Day, Berkshire School brought cartons of food that the students, faculty, and staff collected. We have never had so much cereal and peanut butter! Students also collected money to help us buy hotdogs, hamburger and chicken.

Our wish list for May includes soups and pasta sauce. Please send those or any other items you wish to donate to school with your kids or to your church—or drop it off in the barrel at Berkshire Bank.



# Library News

## FAREWELL TO ANN AND NORY!

We are sorry to report that both full-time Circulation Desk Supervisor Anne Dun and part-time library technician Nory Loeng have left the Bushnell-Sage Library. Anne will concentrate on her editing jobs, and Nory has accepted a full-time, better-paying position as a library technician at the Mason Library in Great Barrington.

We will miss them both. During their short time here, they endeared themselves to their colleagues and library patrons for their diligence, courtesy, professional skills, friendliness and helpfulness.

They in turn will miss the Library. Both really loved serving the voracious, book-hungry residents of Sheffield. Neither would have left but for the low pay—they could not afford to stay.

## RECOMMENDED READING

**Riddle of the Sands** by Erskine Childers (IndyPublish.com). This book, first published in 1903, is not well known in this country but is famous in the rest of the English-speaking world. A fine read, it is considered by many to be "the first and best of spy stories." While fiction, it masquerades (intentionally and very transparently) as a true account of a voyage on a small sailboat off the Friesian and Baltic coasts of Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the voyage the two stalwart heroes uncover and derail a planned sneak attack by Germany on England.

Childers intended the book to be a wakeup call about the growing danger to British naval supremacy—and, therefore, to the nation itself—posed by the rapid expansion of the Imperial German Navy and, in particular, the need to build up England's eastern coastal defenses against a possible German invasion. It succeeded in its objective in that it played a part in redirecting Britain's attention away from France—therefore England's eternal enemy—and toward Germany as the real threat to British interests.

The book is wholly devoid of uncivil language, sex, drugs, blood, violence (other than an ingenious attempted murder by the German villain-in-chief) and virtually all other vices and is all the

This highlights that qualified library technicians do not grow on trees, competitive wages and employee benefits are needed if we want to be able to hire and keep good employees. Currently Sheffield's library positions are among the lowest paid town workers, an anomalous situation given the experience and skills in using computers and dealing with people required to do these jobs well. Part-time technicians earn an hourly wage only slightly higher than a part-time teenage doughnut server in Great Barrington.

As this issue went to press, the Library has hired two new part-time library technicians. We will introduce them in the July/August issue.

—Peter Rowntree

better for it. It will please spy and mystery novel readers, historians and all other lovers of intrigue and derring do.

Mariners will specially appreciate the description by the author—an avid yachtsman—of the difficulties and excitement of navigating a small boat in the shallow, foggy and generally treacherous waters along the north German coast.

Childers, an English civil servant when he wrote the book, went on to become a World War I intelligence officer and an Irish nationalist. It is both sad and ironic to relate that he was captured by the British in Ireland and shot as a spy during the Irish rebellion in the early 1920s.

—Peter Rowntree

**THE BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY**  
(JUST OFF ROUTE 7 IN SHEFFIELD) 413-229-7004

### HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday	10-5
Friday	10-8
Saturday	10-5
Sunday	2-5
Monday	Closed

## LIBRARY NOTES

**Boston Public Library eCards now available.** Sheffield residents can sign up via the web for a temporary six month "eCard" issued by the Boston Public Library. These cards allow users immediate access to all of the BPL's enormous electronic resources, including magazine databases and downloadable audio, video and music. For more information, visit the BPL's FAQ website at <http://www.bpl.org/general/circulation/ecards.htm>.

**Online law library for lazy lawyers.** The Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries (TCLL) now offer remote electronic access to legal databases. Patrons with TCLL cards can read court cases, statutes and regulations and legal treatises online from the comfort of their homes. Visit [www.lawlib.state.ma.us](http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us) for more information.

**Library receives award.** The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has awarded the Bushnell-Sage Library \$278 from its Public Library Fund. This fund provides matching incentives for funds raised by others for the enhancement of library services beyond those provided by municipal funding. —Peter Rowntree

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## EASTMAN TO SPEAK AT CANAAAN LIBRARY

Rae Eastman, until recently the director of Sheffield's Senior Center, will be giving a talk entitled "Life and Letters from the Fifties" on Fri., June 8, 7 p.m. at the Douglas Library in Canaan, CT. Rae will recount some of her encounters with literati of the 1950s when she was working as an agent, editor and book reviewer. Among her clients, friends and acquaintances were James Jones, Jack Kerouac, Martha Gellhorn, Arthur Miller, Theodore Geisel and Shirley Jackson, among others. For more information, call the Library at 860-824-7863.

## SUMMER READING

Summer is a great time for reading! This summer the Library will offer a summer reading camp to children ages 6-10. Camp will be held at the library from Mon., July 16, through Fri., July 20, from 12-3pm daily.

In addition to the reading camp, a story hour will be held every Tuesday and Thursday through July from 10:30-11:30am. Activity booklets are available.

Activities at the camp will include arts and crafts, reading, outdoor sports and a snack. Enrollment is free. Older children are invited to apply as junior counselors. Please call June Wolfe at the library at 229-7004, extension 103, to register or for more information.

## VOLUNTEERS AT SHEFFIELD'S LIBRARY

**Meet Eleanor Sheils.** Eleanor, a Sheffield resident for 14 years, has been doing volunteer work at the Library for four years. Normally, she spends three to four and, when we are facing a serious backlog, sometimes as many as eight hours a week on the premises.

Eleanor is one of the Library's leading experts on processing new and donated books and audio and video items. The amount of TLC required in processing would surprise anyone unfamiliar with library work and she provides lots of it.

Eleanor is a very important member of the library team.

**Volunteers keep service levels up and costs down!** The Bushnell-Sage Library is extremely fortunate to have about 20 regular unpaid volunteers on its staff. Most small libraries have only one or two, and many have none.

Most of our volunteers work at the Library for one to three hours a week. Some work much longer hours. Their duties range from book maintenance and repair, shelving, and the processing of acquisitions (every item must be stamped, labeled, covered, bar-coded and entered into the computerized catalogue) to the care and feeding of our indoor plants and outdoor gardens.

Not only do volunteers share the burden of the paid staff and thereby free them up to do other tasks, they save the Library and

Sheffield's taxpayers a lot of money.

A dramatic example of this is new-item processing. The Library (unlike many other libraries in the Berkshires) saves about one-third of the price of newly acquired items by processing them "in house" (i.e., by our volunteers) rather than by purchasing them "pre-processed" by the supplier. We saved hundreds of dollars in this way in 2006.

Some who volunteer say they do it because it is such a warm and friendly place to be and they feel they are doing something of great value for the community. Others say that they love to be around books, seeing it as a wonderful opportunity to feel, smell and care for them. (It remains to be seen if there will be a problem down the road with the Library's growing collection of less lovable audio and video offerings.)

—Peter Rowntree

## TALK ON GOING GREEN

Marie Stella, a nationally known landscape historian and designer, will present a slide lecture at the Library on Sat., May 5, at 2pm, entitled "Going Green: Constructing the Environmentally Engineered Home and Landscape." Inspired by the Renaissance ideal of the harmony of art and technology, Marie will address rain gardens and vegetated roofs, energy consumption, sustainability and other topics.



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## SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING

A report on Gracious Living Day, the intergenerational event held in April when Sheffield seniors and Berkshire School students worked together, dined together, and shared stories, but the big news concerns the new senior center building.

**Funding for new senior center on Town Warrant.** The Board of Selectmen have placed an article on the warrant for the May 7 Town Meeting to fund a new senior center. The warrant asks the town to approve \$600,000 for the new building.

Last year the town voted to accept a gift of land located behind the American Legion on Route 7 for the new center and to use \$53,000 to pay for a survey, architectural design and other costs associated with the transfer of property. The Board of Selectmen appointed a diverse group of Sheffield citizens to the Senior Center Building Committee, which has been working with the architect and the Council to develop a plan that is cost effective, fulfills the needs of the Council and compliments the architecture of the neighborhood. The new center would also use the existing American Legion Hall for some activities.

A luncheon at Dewey Hall on May 3 allowed people to see the plans and ask Douglas C. Goodman, architect with Reinhardt Associates, and members of the Building Committee any questions. Thanks to all the citizens of Sheffield who have worked to keep the project going over the past years. You can keep it going by attending Town Meeting and voting for this article.

**Gracious Living Day a big success.** This was the third spring in which Berkshire School held what it calls "Gracious Living Day," when it sends students out into the surrounding communities to be of service. On April 13, the school again sent students to Sheffield, but with a different twist. This year, seniors of Sheffield worked alongside the students at the library, the firehouse, the Historical Society and at Dewey Hall, where the Senior Center is currently located.

Although the weather was more like winter than spring, spirits were high as chores were done in the morning before regrouping at Dewey Hall for a lunch of pizza and salad and to share stories and camaraderie. Some of the things accomplished: washing fire trucks, clearing gardens outside the Library, pruning overgrown forsythia at the Historical Society and assembling picture scrapbooks and jigsaw puzzles at Dewey Hall. About 65 people took part, half under 20 years of age. The conjoining of generations made for a great day. We certainly hope that Berkshire School keeps this an annual event that continues to strengthen a good "town/gown" expression of gracious living.

**Upcoming events.** On May 10, we'll hold our Volunteer Appreciation lunch. This annual lauding of all those who give of their time and talents helping to improve the lives of our seniors will be held at Dewey Hall, catered by the Mt. Everett High School culinary students under the direction of Odille Carpenter. The menu should prove to be as outstanding as it has been in past years. Also on the program will be a one-woman show presented by Linda Gray Kelley entitled "A Lady Alone:

### SOLSTICE CELEBRATION TO BENEFIT SENIOR CENTER

On Fri., June 22, Woods Tea Company, a roots-music band that National Public Radio calls "the hardest working folk group in Vermont," will perform at a benefit concert and chicken barbecue to benefit Sheffield's Senior Center. The event is co-sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, The Friendly Union and The Friends of the Senior Center.

Woods Tea Company, from Burlington, VT, will sing sea shanties, folk songs, Irish drinking songs and Celtic music. The group is known for their energy, musical talent and a dry sense of humor between songs.

The celebration will take place at the American Legion hall on Route 7. Dinner will be served 5-6:30 and the concert will start at 7. Tickets are \$17.50 for dinner and music, or \$10 for the music only. Tickets are available from Betsy Smith, Margie Consolini and Pat Sadara. For more information, call 229-8149.

Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, First Woman Doctor in America." This presentation is made possible by a grant from the Sheffield Cultural Council.

On June 22, the Senior Center will host a concert and chicken barbecue at the American Legion Hall featuring the Wood's Tea Company, an American folk music group from Vermont. (See the box above.) Hopefully this will be the first of many activities to be held at the American Legion and eventually our new Senior Center. Come out and show your support! Consult the May and June editions of Sheffield Senior Crier for more details. The Senior Crier is now also on the town website.

In the next issue of Sheffield Times: more on the design for the new Sheffield Senior Center.

—John-Arthur Miller, Director

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## FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

1/16—The Board appointed a Parking Lot Ad Hoc Committee [see story page 1]. It includes Selectmen Jim Collingwood and Julie Hannum. Joe Wilkinson and Mary Joch resigned from the Senior Center Building Committee and Bill Browne was appointed to the committee.

Barbara Davidson and William Camp were granted a lodging house license for 46 Main St. after discussion concerning parking. The applicants will contact the Building Inspector before the license is issued. The Board approved a curb cut for Andrew West on Silver St., already approved by the Highway Superintendent and Chief of Police.

Selectman Hannum stated that she was pleased to represent Sheffield at an inauguration event in Pittsfield and will be attending a meeting regarding broadband internet services. Chairman David Macy and the Board agreed that land acquired by the town through non-payment of taxes should be reviewed. Administrator Bob Weitz discussed his conversation with Mass Highway about moving utility lines to the opposite sides of Main St. The six trees that would have to be removed to move the lines to the other side of Route 7 will be viewed first by the Selectmen.

1/24—Renee Wood was appointed to the Parking Lot Committee. Grace Campbell was appointed to the Senior Center Building Committee.

The Board discussed improving broadband internet service.

The Board moved to executive session for discussion of non-union personnel contract negotiations.

1/31—After an executive session for further discussion of non-union personnel contract negotiations, the Building Inspector's salary and the school budget were discussed.

2/5—The School Committee, Finance Committee and the Boy Scouts attended and were welcomed.

Boy Scout Troup 28 is working toward its Citizenship Merit Award and attended with Janet Stanton. Scouts asked

a question of the Board and were encouraged to return with any future questions.

The Board and the Finance Committee attended a School Committee meeting on February 1 to discuss the school budget. Finance Chairman David Steindler stated that the proposed increases to the school budget could result in the need for a Proposition 2½ override [the proposition requires a town to vote to raise property taxes more than 2½ percent in one year]. Discussion ensued regarding using some of the school's "excess and deficiency" fund and on funding programs that emphasize core subjects, school choice and student enrollment. School Committee members Catherine Miller, Marcia Savage and Jack Pollitt said they would go back to the committee and look at the budget's impact on Sheffield and try to find ways to reduce it. The committee is supposed to approve the budget by March 15, but with state funding amounts not available, the date may be extended.

Chairman Macy announced the resignation of Administrative Assistant Rhonda LaBombard and thanked her for her service. The Board accepted the resignation of Dek Tillet from the School Committee.

A public hearing was held to discuss the application from John B. Hull, Inc. for storage of 60,000 gallons of heating oil on Berkshire School Rd. Following a discussion of the history of the tanks, Fire Chief Rick Boardman requested copies of all permits to keep in the fire department files. There were no comments from the public. A new permit for the storage tanks was granted.

Selectman Hannum discussed the KiDmocracy program with Egyptian students at Mt. Everett High School and would like to see the town become more involved.

The Board ratified the contract between the Town and Police Chief Jim McGarry, written from July 1, 2007, to January 4, 2011.

2/20—Four bids were received for solid waste and recycling disposal. The four companies that sent bids were:

Allied Waste, Master Garbologist, Eco Waste and Valley Roll-off. The lowest bid was from Eco Waste. Their references will be checked. The bid would go into effect July 1, 2007.

Linda Rosen Antiques was granted a license to sell antiques at 576 North Main St. A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Kilmer was received requesting tuition for their son to attend the Housatonic Valley Agricultural Vocation program. After discussion about the program and its costs, Harrison Kilmer was granted the tuition funding.

Town mileage reimbursement was reviewed. The current amount, \$0.40 per mile, is less than the IRS approved rate, \$0.485 per mile. The IRS rate was approved for the next fiscal year.

Selectman Hannum discussed upcoming meetings for the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage. Discussion ensued about the need for Sheffield to participate in the program.

The Board will review an e-mail (available for review at in the Selectmen's office at Town Hall) discussing internet access for all residents in Sheffield. Discussion ensued on the helpfulness of a Technology Committee, which surrounding towns have begun to establish.

Chairman Macy reminded all residents not to park in the Village Green during a snowstorm and that plowing snow into a road is illegal.

Kathy Orlando distributed copies of an update from the Sheffield Land Trust and discussion ensued about their current projects.

3/5—The Board decided to continue their participation in the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste program. The Board awarded a three-year solid waste contract to the low bidder, Eco Waste from Canaan, NY, at \$85 per ton for solid waste disposal and \$200 per trip for hauling recyclables.

Bill Connell was present to discuss the donation by Jean and Sidney Weinstein of land for a picnic area near the Covered Bridge. The Weinstains would like to donate this parcel to the town and have requested that the town indemnify



the adjacent parcel to cover anyone walking onto their property. The Board moved to support the project pending review of the language describing the parcel.

The Board granted funding to the daughter of Rick and Sandy Boardman for tuition to attend the Housatonic Valley Agricultural Vocational Program.

Selectman Hannum is concerned that not all Sheffield residents have broadband access to the Internet. Administrator Weitz will work with Hannum on forming a five-member Technology Committee.

Selectman Collingwood voiced several concerns about the highway department, including its equipment and personnel. Selectman Hannum would like to review recent pay changes.

Peter Traub, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, announced that they have prepared a plan to be presented to the Selectman and the Finance Committee. The committee would like to hold a public meeting before the Annual Town Meeting.

3/7—In a special meeting with the Finance Committee and Senior Center Building Committee, David Smith, Sr., presented possible plans and costs for a new Senior Center, as developed by the Building Committee and prepared by Reinhardt Associates. Two options, Numbers 4 and 5, were presented. The cost for the preferred plan is \$613,000 plus \$82,300 for improvements to the American Legion Hall. Discussion ensued regarding funding sources and grant possibilities. Concerns of the Council on Aging were heard. It was concluded that further discussion was necessary amongst the building committee and the Board.

3/12—David Smith, Sr. presented Option 4, the only Senior Center that the Senior Center Building Committee believes met their charge. The new costs are estimated at \$664,442 plus \$82,300 of improvements to the American Legion Hall. The Board must decide whether to put the project on the warrant for town funding or to seek alternative funding, such as grants. *[It was put on the warrant.]*

Elsie Gillian was appointed administrative assistant for a three-month trial period.

To diminish the visual impact of overhead wires over the Village Green, Mass Highway suggested moving utility poles to the east side of Main St. That would

require the removal of eight Norway maples. Administrator Weitz will meet with Tom Ingersoll to discuss the removal of the trees on March 15.

3/15—Sheffield Tree Project members and Main St. residents were present to discuss the relocation of utility poles to the east side of Route 7. Sheffield Tree Project representatives did not support the tree removal. The Board decided that the poles would remain in place and that funding would be sought to bury the electrical lines. *[See box on page 1 for more.]*

Board members met with Boards of Selectmen from Alford, Monterey and New Marlborough on matters including the school budget, the Monterey School,

salt storage sheds and environmental permitting. In the future, the boards plan to meet two or three times per year to discuss matters of mutual interest. They agreed to meet in Sheffield, since Sheffield is centrally located.

3/26—Which Senior Center plan to adopt and how to fund it were discussed. The Board moved to seek a Small Cities grant or other related grant to help fund the Senior Center. Pauline Schumann spoke in favor of adding the Senior Center to this year's warrant for Town funds.

The Board adopted a single tax rate for fiscal year 2007, as presented and discussed by Principal Assessor Tammy Blackwell.

## TOWN COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Do you have an interest in community service? Would you like to give back to your town? The Sheffield Board of Selectmen seeks interested citizens to serve on various town boards and committees. Currently, there are known openings in the following areas:

- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission (alternates)
- Board of Health
- Cable Television Advisory Committee
- Conservation Committee
- Sheffield Representative to the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
- Technology Access Committee (a new committee to explore possibilities to provide 100% high-speed internet access)

If you are interested in other committees or boards, we would also like to hear from you as other openings may occur. Experience in a related field

is always helpful, but not necessarily a requirement, for serving on a board or committee. Appointment terms vary, usually from one to three years. Information on all of the town boards and committees is available on the town website: [www.sheffield.ma.gov](http://www.sheffield.ma.gov).

Additionally, the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee has active subcommittees working on housing issues (with a Housing Action Committee possibly forming soon) and on developing an Open Space and Recreation Plan for the town. People interested in working in these areas are always welcome to join a subcommittee.

To express your interest or ask questions about a particular opportunity, contact the Board of Selectmen—Dave Macy, Julie Hannum, or Jim Collingwood, Sr.—or call Bob Weitz, Town Administrator, at 229-7000.

—Julie Hannum

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## PLANNING BOARD NEWS

In its meetings from Feb. 27 to April 17, the Planning Board accomplished the following business:

It approved the Form A (approval not required for development) presented by Ronald Durning for Salisbury Road, LLC. This allows the division of a parcel of land on Salisbury Rd. into three building lots. The board also approved a common driveway to serve the three lots, after receiving affirmative input from Fire Chief Rick Boardman, who also represents the Police Chief in these matters. The common driveway was according to town specifications. No other Form A's came before the board.

The board approved special permit applications with conditions attached for Sumac Nominee Realty Trust for a "major commercial development" at 534 South Main St. (the former Fellerman & Rabbe building and for Cog Brewing for "light manufacturing" (microbrewery) at the same address.

It approved the special permit application of Scott, Kurt and Lisa Bartzsch for "light manufacturing" (countertop fabrication) in the front building at 1347 North Main St. (near Torrico Electric),

with conditions attached. Within 14 days of the approval, the board will complete its documentation and forward it to the Town Clerk for the mandatory 20-day appeal period.

The board received but did not accept a special permit application from Berkshire Fence on South Main St. as it was incomplete. A revised application is expected to be submitted.

The board received an inquiry on a potential subdivision in Sheffield and New Marlborough and an unrelated inquiry from Mike Parsons, representing Clair Anacreum and Greg Small, regarding applicability of a special permit under the Alternative Lot Dimension provisions for property in Sheffield and New Marlborough, which the board referred to the Building Inspector for determination.

It also received a Notice of Decision from the Building Inspector on a sign proposed by Keith Hyatt for property on Miller Ave., sending Hyatt to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The board held discussion with sev-

*Continued on page 17*

## TWO REVISIONS TO ZONING BY-LAW ON WARRANT

The Planning Board will be asking town voters to approve two warrant articles at the May 7 Town Meeting. All zoning warrant articles require approval by two-thirds or more of the voters present to be adopted.

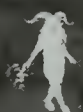
One article, with three parts, seeks to revise the by-law regarding common driveways by clarifying language to avoid potential confusion over the definition and adding a phrase suggested by the state Attorney General's office during their recent review of the newly adopted Zoning By-Laws.

Another article restates the limitations regarding building size in the Commercial District in the section on commercial uses, where a reader would expect to see it. No new by-law language is created with this warrant article.

As the Sheffield Times does every spring, the verbatim warrant articles are published in the special election issue of the Sheffield Times and mailed to all Sheffield residents.

—R.W.

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Kops & Kids Week

The Sheffield Police Dept. is hosting its eighth annual Kops & Kids Week at the Sheffield Town Park July 16 through 20. The focus of the program is a ropes course facilitated by trained and certified police officers. The course, which includes eight low and six high rope elements, aims to build self esteem and trust. Students work in groups, beginning with field games and moving from there to low ropes and after three days high ropes. During the week we also try to provide demonstrations in areas of law enforcement such as a police K-9 or helicopter unit.

The program is geared towards 5<sup>th</sup> graders, but we will accept students in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Fifth graders are given preference.

Students from grades 7 through 12 are on hand to act as mentors, most with a lot of knowledge about the program. Anyone interested in being a mentor

should seek out Zack Batacchi at the Mt. Everett Regional High School, who is our senior mentor. Zack will be happy to explain what goes on during the week.

The typical program is made up of four groups, each with 10 to 12 students, two or three mentors and two police officers. Each group works together throughout the week and focuses on teamwork and trust-building.

Lunches are provided as well as snacks and drinks. Activities go on rain or shine. No sandals are permitted after the first day (sandals are not safe for walking on the ropes).

There is no cost for this camp. It's entirely funded from donations to the Sheffield Police Department. If you're interested in attending as a camper or a mentor, stop in at the Sheffield Police Dept. on Route 7 and Berkshire School Rd. to pick up an application. Spaces are limited, so sign up soon.

—Sherry Johnson



# PLANNING BOARD NEWS

*Continued from page 16*

eral concerned citizens regarding signage by-laws, which prompted the board to invite members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Building Inspector to a special board meeting on May 1 to discuss signage issues.

The Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts gave the Town and the board feedback on the zoning by-law warrant articles approved at the Special Town Meeting in December. Overall, the feedback was excellent, with the AG's office requiring text deletions in only three sections: religious or political signs; requirements for dwelling units in the Flood Hazard Overlay District (which had been unchanged since its original adoption); and the lapse date on a subdivision plan. The latter is the most significant change, and while this information is stated in Mass General Law and therefore automatically applies to Sheffield, the board will likely propose at a future date a by-law revision with the exact wording suggested by the AG's office. The Town Administrator made the changes and re-posted the by-laws on the town's web site. Updated copies of the Zoning By-Laws are also available for a fee of \$10.00 at the Town Clerk's office.

The board updated the Planning Board's Special Permit application form and Sign Information packet to reflect section citations from the recently adopted Zoning By-Laws.

It held a public hearing, finalized the wording and developed a voter information handout for two Zoning

By-Laws warrant articles for the May Town Meeting (see box on page 16).

The board presented the town with the completed Master Plan documentation. The spiral-bound two-volume set is available for review at the Bushnell-Sage Library or the Town Clerk's office, and it's also available on the town website ([www.sheffieldma.gov](http://www.sheffieldma.gov)). The board joined the Board of Selectmen in getting a quarterly update on the Implementation Advisory Committee and its subcommittee's activities (see page 3).

Board member Bill Gillooly, who was appointed in August 2006 to complete the term of Fred Gordon, announced he would not be seeking a full term. Board Vice Chair Bart Elsbach announced that he would not be seeking a second three-year term but will serve as Alternate Member for Special Permits if appointed by the Board of Selectmen for the term beginning May 15. The board extended its thanks and appreciation to both Bart and Bill for their service. (More about their contributions in the next issue.) Two members of our community, David Smith, Sr., and Maggie Martin, filed papers for election to the two vacant seats.

The board plans to move its meeting dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7pm, beginning May 24, to accommodate board member schedules. All meetings are posted, open to the public and held in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room, Town Hall. All are welcome.

—Rene Wood, Chair

## Transfer Station Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays: 1pm-4pm  
Saturdays: 8am-4pm  
Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

## RECYCLING

Sheffield residents can recycle old oil-based paint and motor oil in May and June:

• Wed., May 16, 4-6:30pm, at the Great Barrington Transfer Station, Route 7, across from Monument Mountain High School.

• Sat., June 16, 9-11am, at the Lenox Department of Public Works, 275 Main St., across from MassHighway office.

Alkaline batteries and latex paint are not accepted at these collections; they can be disposed of in household trash.

To participate, pre-register with the Center for Environmental Technology at 1-800-238-1221 ext. 14 or 25, or e-mail [jamiec@cetonline.org](mailto:jamiec@cetonline.org).

## TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Control	
emergency	229-8552
Assessor	229-7001
Board of Selectmen	229-2335
Building Inspector	229-7006
Fire Dept.	
non-emergency	229-7033
Library	229-7004
Police Dept.	
non-emergency	229-8522
School District	229-8778
Senior Center	229-7022
Town Clerk	229-8752
Tax Collector	229-7007
Transfer Station	229-7019



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**ANN MORELLI SMITH**  
SALES ASSOCIATE



## TOWN CLERK

**Annual street list (census).** There are still approximately 500 annual street lists, or census forms, that have not been sent in. The Annual Street List went out to all residents the first week in January. The town is required by the State to send these forms annually, and we hope not to be forced to make time-consuming and costly follow-up calls. Responses would be appreciated by May 15, which will allow the Town Clerk's office to meet State requirements.

**Dog licenses.** Licenses are renewable annually in the spring. Your dog's current license expired on March 31. Owners have until May 1 to renew. If you have a dog six months or older, or if you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, licensing is required. After May 1, a delinquent fee of \$25 per dog will be added to your license fee. (This does not apply to new licenses).

If your dog is spayed or neutered, the cost is \$4. If your dog is intact, the fee is \$10. You may obtain a license in person or by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with a check made payable to the Town of Sheffield and a proof of rabies vaccination to Town Clerk, PO Box 175, Sheffield, MA 01257.

**Voting information.** The annual town meeting will be held on Monday, May 7 at Mt. Everett Regional High School at 7pm. The town election will be the following Monday, May 14. Polls will be open from 9am-7pm at the Town Hall. If you will need an absentee ballot, please contact this office for further information.

**Hunting and fishing licenses are available.** The 2007 hunting/sporting and fishing/trapping licenses and stamps are available. When purchasing a license for you or on behalf of someone else, you must present a prior year's license or a Hunter's Safety Certificate. Firearm ID cards alone are no longer acceptable. Without proper documents, we will not be able to issue a license. Note that antlerless deer permit applications (doe permits) must be postmarked by July 16.

## FIRE LOG

—Rick Boardman, Chief

### February

- 11 Furnace over heating at 377 S. Main St. Alarm time 8:40pm. In service 9:15pm.
- 13 Alarm at Berkshire School. Alarm time 9:55am. In service 10:10am.
- 14 Truck fire on Route 7. Alarm time 11:30am. In service 12:00pm.
- 17 Truck accident. Alarm time 2:01pm. In service 3:12pm.
- 17 Mutual aid to Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time 5:15pm. In service 6:20pm.
- 22 Transformer fire on Hewins St. Alarm time 10:07am. In service 10:25am.
- 25 Alarm at 77 Cobble Lane. Alarm time 12:49pm. In service 12:54pm.

### March

- 2 Mutual aid to Lakeville, CT, Fire Dept. Alarm time 8:44am. In service 1:19pm.
- 5 Alarm at 716 Rannapo Rd. Alarm time 2:13pm. In service 2:36pm.
- 10 Illegal burn at 446 Boardman St. Alarm time 5:59pm. In service 6:41pm.
- 12 Alarm at Berkshire School. Alarm time 11:50am. In service 12:08pm.
- 17 CO alarm at 1742 Boardman St. Alarm time 7:28am. In service 8:42am.
- 21 Mutual aid to Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time 2:15pm. In service 2:25pm.

The *Sheffield Times* depends on community support to publish.  
Make a donation and get the Times mailed to you. See page 23.



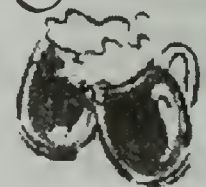
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## FARMERS' MARKET OPENS MAY 11

This season's farmers' market will open on May 11, Mother's Day weekend, and run every Friday through Oct. 12, Columbus Day Weekend, rain or shine. The hours will be 3:30 to 6:30.

Most of last year's vendors will be returning, although Dutch Desserts and the Corn Crib will not be among them. New vendors will be selling Lebanese food, beef, maple syrup, knives, cut flowers and plants and other nursery items.

This year, the market plans to have live music each week to liven up the proceedings. On the opening day, the Sammy Brown Band will perform its eclectic mix of pop music. Other special events will include face painting and pony rides and a petting zoo provided by local 4Hers.

—Barb Davidson, market manager

### BRADFORD GALLERIES CLOSES

After more than 35 years in business, Bradford Galleries on Route 7 has closed. According to a report in the Berkshire Record, Robert Emberlin closed the doors for good on March 31, citing "a poor climate for antiques." Emberlin had run the Sheffield institution since his mother's death in 2006. Bill Bradford died in 1996.

### FARMERS' MARKET VENDORS FOR THE 2007 SEASON

Barb's Baked Boods—baked goods, breads, jams  
Berkshire Mountain Bakery—breads, more  
Bill's Busy Bees Honey—honey  
Bizalion's Fine Foods—dairy, pasta, cheese, soups  
Brooks & Magill Nursery—potted plants, shrubs  
Chart Mind Gallery—herbs  
Chubby Bunny—produce  
Equinox Farm—lettuce, tomatoes, more  
Farmhouse Bakers—baked goods  
Greener Leaves Greenhouse—plants, hanging plants  
High Country Farm—produce, eggs  
Howden Farm—corn  
Knifemaker—homemade knives and sharpeners  
Lakeview Orchards—fruit, doughnuts, more  
Land of Nod—maple syrup  
Moon In The Pond Farm—fruit, eggs, flowers, meat  
Niji's Restaurant—Lebanese food  
When Pigs Fly Farm—seedlings, eggs, plants, more

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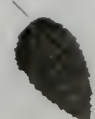
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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

With the Historical Society buildings visible from the new town parking lot, it's time to spruce them up. Starting with the Old Stone Store and the Mark Dewey Research Center and then the Dan Raymond House and Education Center, Steve Phillips and crew are painting the buildings of the Society.

Ten students and 2 faculty members from Berkshire School started our spring cleanup with a cold, wet morning of cutting and raking and scraping and washing windows. Guided by Jim Shiminski and Marcia Brolli, they removed the forsythia forest on the back property line, cleaned up residue from the winter's snowplowing, raked out the front beds and replaced rotted boards in the north face and and scraped it down.

Thanks to the town crew who started and finished the removal of the shrub growth along the cleaned-up parking lot. The plans for the landscaping of the lot will enhance our town center. (See page 1 for more.)

**Monthly meetings.** The May meeting will be on May 4, a week early. Hilary Russell will read his and Arthur Chase's

poetry. Selections will include published poems about Sheffield, Louis Rote, and other people and places of the Sheffield area. Hilary was a founding board member of the Sheffield Land Trust and Arthur was active on many town boards. Dewey Memorial Hall, 7:30pm. Free to the public. Refreshments served.

The June meeting will be on June 8. It's our Annual Meeting, and we'll have an ice cream social after reports and voting. 7:30pm, Dewey Memorial Hall.

**Annual dinner and crafts fair.** Save the date! Our annual dinner (formerly the Pigge Roast) and crafts fair will be held on Sat., Aug. 25, at the American Legion Hall on Rt. 7.

### Exhibits at the Old Stone Store

May 19-June 13. The high school's arboretum project members with teacher Chris Kovey will join Tom Ingersoll and the Sheffield Tree Project in presenting "Sheffield

*Continued on page 21*

## BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE EVENTS

**Bird Walk: Spring Migration.** Sundays, May 6 through May 27, 8-10am. Explore various avian habitats as spring migrants arrive. Birders of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars. Please pre-register. Members: free. Non-members: Included with admission.

**Spring Wildflowers.** Sat., May 5, 10:30am-12pm; Mother's Day, May 13, 10:30am-12pm. In spring, the Cobble is awash in woodland wildflowers—hepatica, spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, cut-leaved toothwort, red and white trillium and many more. Learn how these spring ephemerals are specially adapted to complete their life cycle. Please pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4. Non-members: adult/child \$6.

**Volunteer Work Days.** Every Thursday, mid-April through Oct., 9 am-11:30am. Join friends and neighbors as we pull, clip, lop, and chop to rid the Cobble of some noxious weeds. Better than a morning at the gym. Call for more information. Free.

**Garlic Mustard Jamboree.** Thurs., May 17, 9am-noon. Help The Trustee's employees battle one of Bartholomew's Cobbles' biggest threats to biodiversity. One big concerted effort will help get the Cobble off to a good start for the season. Bring a lunch; refreshments and snacks provided. Call for details. Free.

**Wild Edibles.** Sat., May 26, 11am-1:30pm. Learn to identify dozens of wild edibles, how to collect them ethically and how to incorporate them into your cuisine. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$6; child \$3. Nonmembers: adult \$8; child \$4.

**Housatonic Paddle.** Memorial Day, May 28, 9am-noon; Saturdays, June 2 and 9, 8:30-11:30am; Sundays, June 10 and 17 (Father's Day), 8:30-11:30am. Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist/guide and explore the rich and varied habitats of the river. Look for bald eagles, great blue

herons, kingfishers and bank swallows. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and binoculars. All other equipment is provided. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$15; child (10-16) \$10. Non-members: adult \$25; child (10-16) \$15.

**Quest Fest!** Sat., June 16 1-3:30pm. Come on a treasure hunt that will take you back through time to the days of the Mohicans and the earliest European settlers. Learn about the "sport" of questing and make your own rubber stamp for the book where the treasure hides. Please pre-register. Members/non-members: \$3 materials cost.

**Incredible Insects.** Sat., June 23 and 30 10am-noon. A fun-filled search for beetles, antlions, dragonflies, butterflies and other amazing insects. Strictly catch and release! Wear long pants and socks. Please pre-register. Fun for Families. Members: adult/child \$4; family \$10. Non-members: adult/child \$6; family \$15.

**Canoe Trip: Sheffield Covered Bridge to Bartholomew's Cobble.** Sun., June 24, 9am-2pm. Explore an extraordinarily scenic nine-mile stretch of the Housatonic River, rich with wildlife and local history with a naturalist/guide. Bring a picnic lunch. Call for more information. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$25; child (10-16) \$15. Non-members: adult \$35; child \$20.

**Full Moon Hike.** Sat., June 30, 9-10:30pm. Forests and fields look much different in the moonlight. Come explore the sights and sounds of nighttime. Please pre-register. Members/ Non-members: adult \$5; family \$10.

*Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. The Visitor's Center is open year-round, daily, 9am-4:30pm (closed Sundays and Mondays, Dec. to March). For more information, call 229-8600.*



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

*Continued from page 20*

Then, Now, and in the Future: Community Trees." The exhibit will open with a reception on May 19, 2-4pm, and close on June 13. The exhibit will display the joint work of the Sheffield Tree Project and Mt. Everett students and will feature the developing arboretum on the school campus and a new satellite positioning system that will be used to identify and keep track of trees in the Sheffield town forest.

June 15-July 1. Five Friends Art Exhibit. In June the "Five Friends" will return to exhibit their work. These popular local artists—Joe Baker, Hans Heuberger, David McCandless, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Cleef—will be showing recent work in a variety of media.

July 1-Aug. 12. American Antique Wicker. Kathy and Tom Tetro of Corner House Antiques will exhibit two floors of antique wicker furniture from the turn of the last century, 1890 to 1920. The show will feature their private collection, including some unique items

July 21. John Wall, an authority on Wakefield wicker will speak in the morning, and Charlie Flint will hold an "American Roadshow" antiques appraisal session in the afternoon.

August 18-Sept. 3. Lori And Ernie Barker, local artists, will be featured.

Sept. 8-Oct. 30. Fire and Light. American hearth cooking and home lighting devices to 1860.



The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. The Old Stone Store is also located on Route 7, on the Green in the center of town. Hours are Saturdays from 10am-2pm, Sundays 11am-3pm, and by appointment. Hours for the Mark Dewey Research Center are Monday and Friday, 1:30 to 4pm, and by appointment. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday 11am-4pm; admission fee. The Society office is open Thursday through Saturday. For more information, contact Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email [shs@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:shs@sheffieldhistory.org).

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## One more elm for Sheffield

As part of its Arbor Day 2007 celebration on April 28, the Sheffield Tree Project planted a disease-resistant "Princeton" elm on the Ashley Falls green. Down in the dirt preparing the root ball are Maizy Hillman, Tom Ingersoll and Barbara West while other planting volunteers look on.

The Sheffield Tree Project is celebrating 10 years of community forestry this year. Since 2002, the group has planted more than 100 trees around Sheffield. You can support continued plantings by volunteering or making a tax-deductible donation. For more information on the group, contact Tom Ingersoll at 413-822-1602 or go to the web site at [www.sheffieldtreeproject.org](http://www.sheffieldtreeproject.org).



## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

### February

- 7 Mary-Beth Conlisk to the Berkshire Building Co., property at Berkshire Lake Estates, \$2,800.
- 12 Justice and Ginger Carey to Joseph C. Hartman, property at 549 South Undermountain Rd., \$515,000.
- 16 HSBC Bank U.S.A. to Julia M. Heenan, property at 235 East Stahl Rd., \$171,300.
- 22 Lawrence J. and Constance A. Del Masto to Carlos A. Torres & Claudia Sanchez, property at 654 Clayton Rd., \$230,000.
- 23 Betty Dunbar to Oscar and Alicia Ogaz, property at 10 Cedar St., \$233,000.

### March

- 1 Mary E. Cane, et. al to Jeffrey C. Wheeler and Susan E. Kiesel, property at 195 West Rd., \$220,000.
- 1 Marc H. Lavietes & Rose K. Rosal to Leatrice Kushlefsky, property at 164 County Rd., \$236,000.
- 2 Charles H. Jr. & Mary F. Joch to MKE Holding Corp., property at East Stahl Rd., \$115,000.
- 5 Deutsche Bank Trust Company, Trustee (F.B. O'Connor) to The Nature Conservancy, property at Berkshire School Rd., \$100.
- 12 Catheryn M. Clary & Edward Schweizer to Charlotte E. Carlson, property at 375 Hewins St., \$660,000.
- 19 Barrington Stage Company to Haggis & Herring, LLC, property at 18 Elm Court, \$317,000.
- 19 John W. Tinker, Jr., Elizabeth M. Rockefeller & Mary Tinker to Jack H. Cruikshank & Elissa J. Tinker, property at 9 Squire Ln., \$210,000.



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**Sheffield  
Land Trust**

**Save the date!**  
**June 23**  
for the  
**Sheffield Land  
Trust's  
Annual Meeting**

Look for specifics in flyers and  
ads closer to the date!



## May

- 4 Historical Society meeting at Dewey Hall, 7:30pm (p. 20)
- 5 Stella on Going Green at Library, 2pm (p. 12)
- 7 Sheffield Town Meeting, 7pm, Mt. Everett High School
- 10 Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Dewey Hall (p. 13)
- 11 Farmers' Market opens in Sheffield Center (p. 19)
- 13 *Mother's Day*
- 14 Sheffield Town Election, 9am-7pm, Town Hall
- 16 Recycling at Great Barrington, 4-6:30pm (p. 17)
- 18 "Oliver!" at CPAC, 7pm (p. 8)
- 19 "Oliver!" at CPAC, 7pm
- 19 Knitting group, 11am (p. 10)
- 19 Opening at Stone Store, 2-4pm (p. 20)
- 20 "Oliver!" at CPAC, 2pm
- 20 Service of Remembrance at Library, 2pm (p. 10)
- 28 *Memorial Day*  
Ashley Falls Parade, 8am, Ashley Falls Green  
Sheffield Parade, 11am, Police Station (p. 7)

## June

- 7 "WiT" at Dewey Hall, 7pm (p. 6)
- 8 Rae Eastman talk at Douglas Library, Canaan 7 p.m. (p. 12)
- 8 Historical Society meeting at Dewey Hall, 7:30pm (p. 20)
- 15 *Sheffield Times* deadline
- 16 Recycling at Lenox, 9-11am (p. 17)
- 22 Benefit dinner/concert for Senior Center at American Legion Hall, 5pm (p. 13)
- 23 Sheffield Land Trust Annual Meeting (p. 22)

See also the listings for Bartholomew's Cobble on p. 20

## ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. "1<sup>st</sup>", "3<sup>rd</sup>" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. \* indicates appointment needed.

### Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1<sup>st</sup>

### Tuesdays:

- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, Tues. 7am-1pm
- Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

### Wednesdays:

- Senior Center Knitting Group, 1pm

### Thursdays:

- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (starting May 24; also Tues., May 15)
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, Thurs. 3pm-7 pm
- \*Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>
- \*Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

### Fridays:

- Farmer's Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 3:30-6:30pm

### Saturdays:

- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4<sup>th</sup>

### Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2<sup>nd</sup>

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Send us your news, stories or photos. Submissions and suggestions can be sent to [sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com](mailto:sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

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# **SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION**

## **The weekend of September 8 and 9**

### **Save the date!**

*The Sheffield Fair will be on  
Saturday, September 8, 3-7 p.m.  
Other events to be announced*

*Do you have one to include? Interested in being a  
vendor or exhibitor? Want to volunteer?*

*Call Dave Smith, Sr., at 229-9956*

### **Sheffield TIMES**

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